

Damon Arhos

Artist Statement

Whose perspective defines reality? And, if I stand in contrast, then am I an outsider? Misled? Wrong? Or, are answers more ambiguous? Are there only differing points of view, all fighting for success? Our environments cast a torrent of influence against us, making exactitude elusive. My art practice seeks to expose the destructive nature of prejudice and uses my identity as a gay American as its frame.

As an interdisciplinary artist, I create two- and three-dimensional artworks using a range of media. I often incorporate individuals or objects that have a distinct connection to my past, yet intentionally present conflicting narratives of accomplishment and defeat. These subject matters tap cultural phenomena that speak to many and aim to make connections to authentic life experiences shared by others.

Ultimately, my work demonstrates the contradictory circumstances that I often experience, and in doing so, manifests the precarious relationship between ostracism and acceptance. Via style, scale, and content, it asks viewers to examine their convictions – to see how their thoughts and actions affect others. It also asks them to embrace what is pleasant and amusing, as laughter cultivates accord.